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# **News Release**

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## **2 men charged with managing a house in Elk River that was used in marijuana grow operation**

Two men were charged last week with managing a house that was used to grow marijuana.

Ngoc Ba Phung, 32, Brooklyn Park, and Josep Long Van, 47, Elk River, were each charged June 30 in Minneapolis with one count of aiding and abetting the maintenance of drug involved premises. The charge alleges that from April 2008 to June 21 the two did knowingly manage and control a premises located in Elk River for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing marijuana.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, law enforcement learned about the grow operation in April 2008, and observed Phung at the residence, located in the 10000 block of 176th NW Lane, on May 18 and June 13.

Police executed a search warrant at the residence on June 21, and recovered 870 marijuana plants. Both Phung and Van were found at the residence and arrested.

Police also executed a search warrant at a Rogers residence on June 21, and found evidence of a dismantled marijuana grow operation.

If convicted, Phung and Van each face a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the DEA, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and the police departments of Elk River and Rogers. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney LeeAnn K. Bell.